



NEWS RELEASE

January 22, 2003

El Paso Border Patrol Agents apprehend Canadian National

Man sought by Ontario Provincial Police for sexual assault of a child

U. S. Border Patrol Agents from the Carlsbad Station working in Roswell, New Mexico, yesterday apprehended a 47-year-old man from Canada for overstaying his B-2 visitor visa. While processing the individual, identified as Robert Alexander Sobel, agents were alerted to an outstanding warrant for his arrest from Ontario, Canada.

Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) confirmed Sobel was wanted for sexual assault and sexual interference with a child. The OPP constables indicated they were anxious to assume custody of Sobel after his immigration proceedings in the United States have been completed. OPP officials say Sobel has failed to notify Canadian authorities about his change of address, which is required under the terms of their Sexual Offender Registry Program.

Sobel was processed for violating U.S. immigration laws and sent to the El Paso Processing Center pending his immigration hearing. Once his immigration case is completed, Sobel will be turned over to the proper authorities in Canada. If convicted on the criminal sexual assault charges, Canadian authorities say Sobel can receive a maximum of 14 years in a Canadian prison.

Border Patrol officials say Sobel was living and working in Roswell at the time of his capture. Once his illegal immigration status in the U.S. was determined, a criminal background check was conducted via the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) Data Base. It revealed an outstanding warrant on Sobel that was issued prior to 2000, in Canada.

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